



## MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

**December 2016 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held Thursday, December 15, 2016, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. This is the evening for our holiday party with pizza provided by the club—bring a food item to share.**

President: Justin Perrault  
Secretary: John Bleidorn  
Sgt. at Arms: Jeff Gaffke  
Trustee '14-'16: Leon Saryan  
Librarian: Joe Paonessa

Vice President: Jim Heinrich  
Treasurer: Lee Hartz  
Trustee '15-'17: Tom Dallmann  
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer  
Newsletter editor: Leon Saryan

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*The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road).*

**December Coin of the Month:** This month we feature a set of 8 historic US nickels, encased in a clear plastic display case. Included are a 1906 liberty head, a 1936 buffalo, and six more recent gem uncirculated Jefferson examples. The opening bid for this attractively packaged set is only \$8. A similar set was offered in September.



## December 2016 MNS President's Message

Although we had a rather light turnout at the last meeting on account of the PCDA coin show in Rosemont, the auction we held still entailed successful bidding for a good selection of items, many of which sold for very reasonable prices. Given that our December meeting is host to the annual holiday party I hope that many of the members will come out for an expanded time to simply socialize and partake in show and tell. I will ensure that we have more than enough pizza for everyone, and if you signed up for an additional refreshment please remember to bring it to the next meeting.

As in years past we will again play several rounds of Bingo. There will also be what promises to be a very interesting short presentation by our secretary John B. regarding his recent trip to New York City and his visit to the New York Federal Reserve and its gold bank. Of course we will also be having our annual officer election in December, and since there is a contested race for the position of trustee we will actually have physical ballots to complete. The slate consists of me for President, Jim H. for V.P., Lee H. for treasurer, John B. for secretary, and a race between Kevin F. and Dave H. for three-year trustee.

Membership dues for the coming year will be actively collected at the next couple of meetings. Our secretary has done a great job at seeking out a printer for new membership cards, so you will receive one when payment is made. Starting with our January newsletter we are looking for any and all original articles to be submitted by our members. At the end of the year we will vote for what the members deem to be the best article and a prize will be awarded. So sharpen your pencils and get to researching an original and unique numismatic topic. It doesn't have to be overly lengthy, but it does have to be original, interesting, and educational.

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that you have an even more terrific Christmas. I look forward to ushering in a new year of numismatic adventures with the Club.

Happy Collecting,  
Justin J. Perrault  
[masters1122@yahoo.com](mailto:masters1122@yahoo.com)  
262.613.9996



**MNS Exhibit Prize Winners:** Peter Jacobsohn (l.) (3<sup>rd</sup> place: WWI German Iron Cross) and Bruce Bartelt (2<sup>nd</sup> place: Coinage of Roman Egypt) holding their awards from the October MNS show. Not pictured: Floyd Aprill (Best-in-Show: US Mint in Manila). Also exhibiting: Bob Burlingame (Horse Car Tokens) and Robert Mathieu (Medals Honoring Space Exploration).

# MN\$ 2016-17

## Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

## Monthly meeting programs

|           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Dec 15:   | Holiday Party; Officer Elections |
| Jan 19:   | Officer Inductions               |
| Feb 16:   | Open                             |
| March 16: | Open                             |
| April 20: | Open                             |
| April 29: | CSNS Bus Trip                    |
| May 18:   | Spring Auction                   |
| June 15:  | Open                             |
| July 20:  | Open                             |
| Aug 17:   | Open                             |
| Sept 21:  | Open                             |
| Oct 19:   | Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing      |
| Nov 16:   | Autumn Auction; Election Slate   |
| Dec 21:   | Holiday Party; Officer Elections |

## Annual Dues

Dues for 2017 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

## PLEASE NOTE:

**MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.**

## 2017 Numismatic Events

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| February 19 | Wisconsin Coin Expo – Oshkosh Convention Center (9-4 PM)                         |
| February 26 | Racine Coin Show – Roma Lodge 9-3 PM   |
| March 5     | Madison NOW Coin Show (9-4) Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Dr.                   |
| March 12    | Waukesha Coin Show (9-4 PM) New Berlin Ale House                                 |
| April 7-8   | South Shore Coin Club show, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza                       |
| April 8     | MNS Boy Scout Clinic, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza (volunteers gather at 7 AM) |
| April 26-29 | CSNS Coin Show Renaissance Convention Center Schaumburg, IL                      |

## Refreshment Schedule

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| Dec: | Holiday Party |
| Jan: | Open          |
| Feb: | Open          |
| Mar: | Open          |
| Apr: | Open          |
| May: | Open          |
| Jun: | Open          |
| Jul: | Open          |
| Aug: | Open          |
| Sep: | Open          |
| Oct: | Open          |
| Nov: | Open          |
| Dec: | Holiday Party |

# Milwaukee Numismatic Society

## Minutes

November 17, 2016

President Justin Perrault called the 973<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the MNS to order at 7:00 PM. There were 18 members and 2 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Steve J, Peter J, Jim H, Mike M, Darlene, Ed F, John B, Bruce B, Dave H, Jim T, Josh W.

**Coin of the Month:** Steve J won the coin of the month, a 2004-D & 2004-S Jefferson nickel Proof set with a bid of \$9.00.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee Hartz reported that October showed receipts of \$10.00 and \$1,409.09 in disbursements for a negative cash flow of \$1,399.09.

**Correspondence:** Numismatist magazine, insurance agent appreciation card.

**Membership:** Membership cards will be obtained for the 2017 year regular members and made available at the December meeting.

**Nomination Committee:** A motion was approved by voice vote to correct the October meeting minutes. There was an omission regarding allowing ongoing officers to suspend the provision in the constitution and bylaws to enable current officers to serve more than two consecutive terms. Therefore, all current officers up for election will be allowed to serve in 2017. There are now 2 remaining nominees for the open trustee position: they are Kevin F, and Dave H. Nominations were closed at tonight's meeting.

**Newsletter:** Short articles are always welcome.

**Auction:** The November club auction was held tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm by President Perrault.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**John Bleidorn, Secretary**



## MNS Members Shine at Michigan State Coin Show

By **Dave Hunsicker**

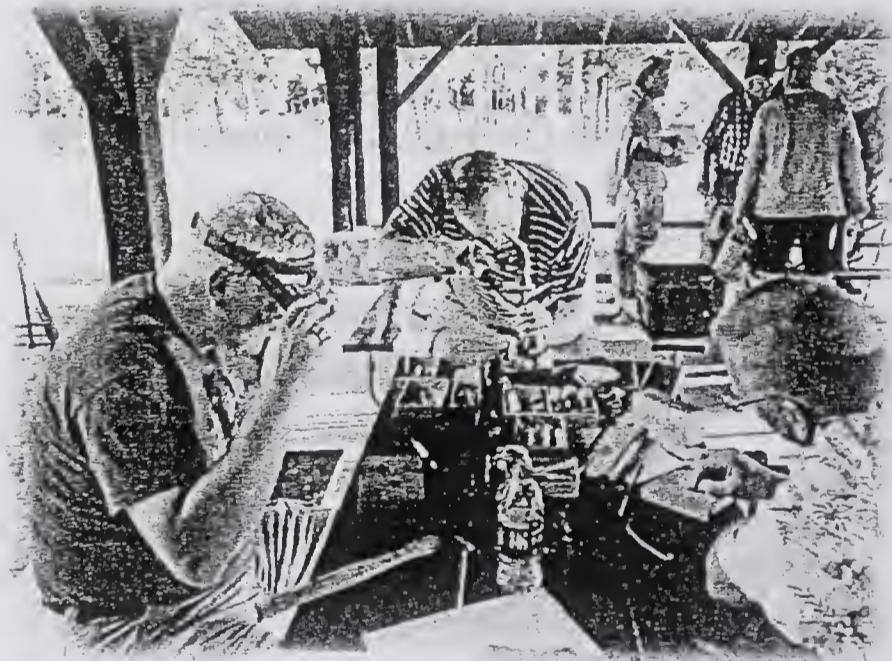
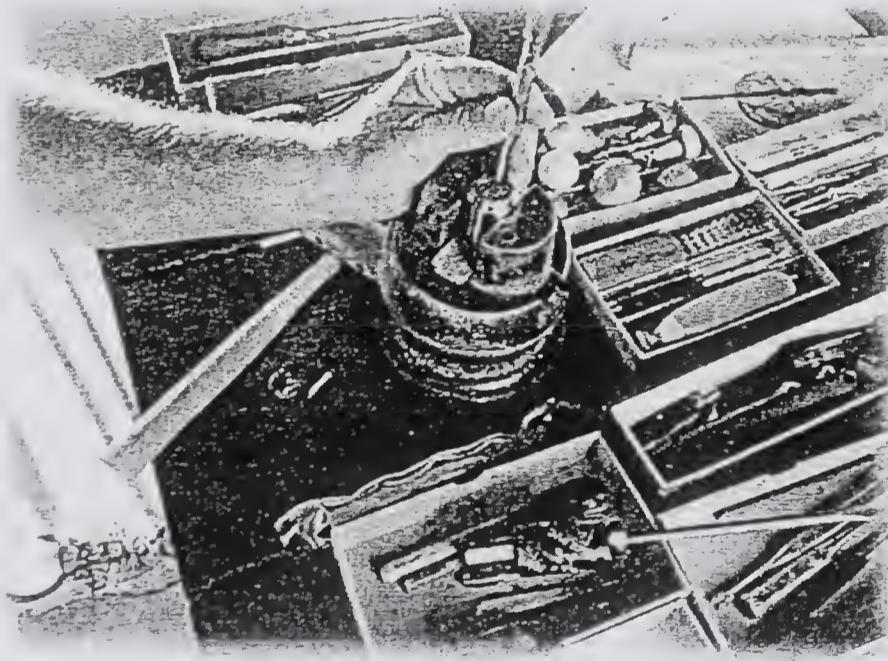
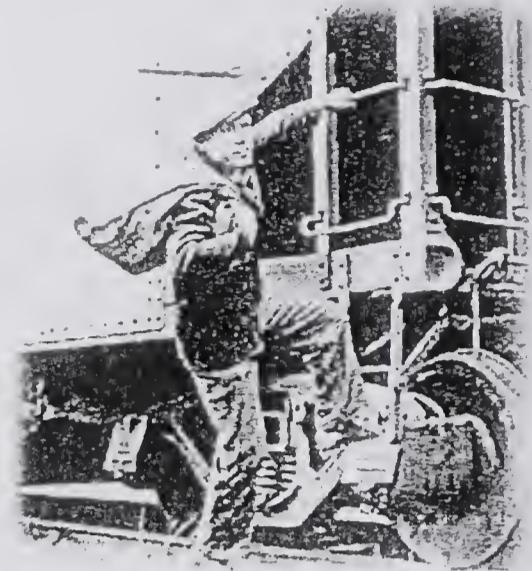
Four MNS members exhibited at the Thanksgiving weekend Michigan State Numismatic Society 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary three-day show. The show was held in Warren, Michigan, north of Detroit and was well attended. There was an awards breakfast where Floyd Aprill received first place in US Coins with "The United States Mint in Manila", Dave Hunsicker received first place in Tokens with "The Milwaukee Transit System", Joe Paonessa received second place in Medals with "The Duplication of Coins and Medals by the Electrotype Process" and also third place in Miscellaneous with "The GM Tech Center Roller Press Cent". The big winner was Jason Paonessa who won first place Junior 13-17 with "The David R. Cervin Ancient Coin Project". He also won the Junior Best of Show award which also made him Exhibitor of the Year which earned him a trip to the ANA Summer Seminar. So, the Milwaukee delegation did very well.

Michigan State celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a banquet at the attractive American Polish Cultural Center. Guest speaker was Dave Harper of Numismatic News. A great meal was prepared, plus silent and live auctions took place. All participants received a 1956 elongated half dollar prepared by Ray Dillard. Ray was also responsible for obtaining an intaglio convention card printed on an old spider press. A new book "Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money" by Hessler and Chambliss was handed out. Participation was excellent and fun was had by all.

# Hobo Nickel anyone?

By Bruce Benoit

A Hobo Nickel demonstration was given to the members of the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club at their annual picnic in Wausau, Wisconsin at Bluegill Park by Bruce Benoit. The demonstration started off with a brief history of the Hobo Nickel, then went on to the different tools used to make them. Many techniques using the different tools were discussed. From the crude hand made tools of the early carvers to modern day palm controlled gravers used by today's carvers who are called "Modern Carvers". Even if the tools used are primitive (non-power tools) now days the result is still considered a modern carving. This separates the old ones from the new. We started discussing the earlier period of when these carved nickels first appeared and who was making them. It was a very interesting time as many people were unemployed and lived a transient lifestyle. Working their way across the country in search for a better life and doing what they could to get by. The idea of altering a nickel was probably started due to boredom as these people sat around the evening campfire with nothing to do. Kind of like how whittling wood with a jack knife evolved into making whistles and other toys and figurines.

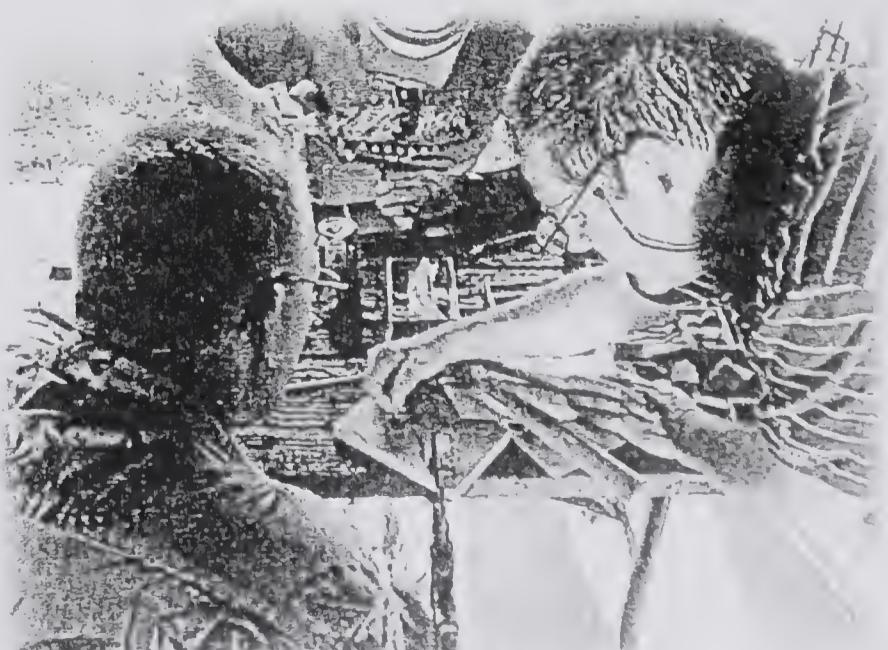


I passed around several handouts with pictures of many different types of Hobo nickels including some of my own. We also talked about the Original Hobo Nickel Society, a club devoted to the promotion of Hobo nickel carving and how to join. I then began to explain how I was first taught to create Hobo nickels from "The Greatest Left Handed Hobo Nickel Carver", Joe Paonessa. Using only primitive tools (hammer, chisel, and graver) along with some hand held clean-up tools, I went through the process that I now use utilizing a ball vise and special nickel holder. Joe also provided me a picture of the progression of a hobo nickel which was really neat for everyone to see. It showed them five different stages from the start to completion, a valuable visual learning tool.

See Joe Paonessa's electrotype progression example below:



In preparation of the demo I searched Flea markets and rummage sales for extra tools I could use in the presentation and for participants to use to make their own Hobo Nickels. I found many different small hand punches, nail punches, scrapers, and small chisels. My idea for this Demo was to make it hands on, and not just lecture and show and tell. I wanted some to participate and try their hand and creating one of their own to take home. This idea would, in my mind "plant the seed" more effectively. When I was done explaining my techniques in creating a Hobo nickel, I passed out several pictures of examples that I thought the participants could make using only punches. I prepared these examples from pictures I found on the internet. Just type in "Hobo Nickel" on a search engine like Google and O-My-Gosh, be prepared to see what is out there. I used the further defined search term "Crude Hobo Nickels" and got many design types made from just using punches. I spent some time preparing the newly purchased tools by sharpening them on a bench grinder, and even creating some interesting curved punches and ones that would make tiny raised balls on the punched surfaces. I also created a half dozen nickel boards to hold the nickels in place so that they could be worked on by the participants. Using the picture sheets I created, several members jumped at the challenge of trying to create their own Hobo Nickel. I segregated the punches into their different types and let them begin by selecting the punch they wanted to start with and watched as hammers began pounding the punches.



I explained to everyone that one of the neatest thing about Hobo Nickel creating is that you can stop at any time and be done. Or you can keep going to add more detail, or clean and smooth the surfaces better. Only you have to be satisfied with the final result. I also created a punched Hobo nickel there. The punch I selected had a very fine point; it was actually an insert to a screw driver that I ground down to a sharp point. Noticing that the participants were really hammering harder than I was, I stopped them all to show them a different technique that was working well for me. By just tapping the chisel lightly, but more frequently and moving it at the same time, I was able to get a cool pattern that covered some of the facial features and resembled a full beard. We all continued to hammer and tap away in creating our new folk art pieces. I even demonstrated the use of a handmade scrapper I produced from a nail and a bottle cap wrapped in tape for the handle.

We did not have enough time to complete our nickels, but it gave the participants a good hands-on experience on what it takes to create one. This is something that they can now complete at home in their spare time with whatever tools they have in their tool boxes. Below is the Hobo Nickel that I created there and finished up at home.



Hobo Nickel  
created by  
Bruce Benoit

This was a great experience for all of us, including myself. I had never tried to make one by only using punches before. I now have a different technique to use in my tool box of creativity. Creativity is the key word here; you do not have to have any artistic ability to create a Hobo Nickel, just some creativity and ambition. **It is fun and exciting, why don't you give it a try?**